The term "passively" used in the phrase "means for passively introducing the generated sulphur gases into a pressurized stream of aqueous solution to create sulphurous acid" has been defined by the specification:

> The term 'passively' means that the sulphur gases and/or sulphurous acid is not put under positive pressure to effect injection into line 300 but that in ambient conditions in gas pipeline 70 and in reservoir 320, the respective sulphur gas(es) or sulphurous acid is drawn into line 300 by injector 310.

Specification, at pg. 35, line 26 through pg. 36, line 3. This is a summary of the previously detailed description of using an injector 310 which, independent of the gas or acid generating apparatus or method, creates a differential pressure. The configuration of the present invention is such that the differential pressure created by the injector draws liquid or gas into the pressurized line in an ambient state without putting the gas/acid under pressure. The advantage of the passively introducing means is that no additional mechanical or electro-mechanical devices are needed to inject sulphur gases and/or sulphurous acid into an existing pressurized line.

Unlike the present invention, the Forbush reference does not teach the claimed "means for passively introducing the generated sulphur gases into a pressurized stream of aqueous solution to create sulphurous acid" or " means for passively introducing the sulphurous acid into a pressurized fluid line." Forbush teaches a mechanical discharge pump 26 used to put the generated sulphurous acid under pressure for discharge. Furthermore, unlike the ambient state of the present invention, the Forbush system is under pressure. This is confirmed at Col. 6, lines 28 through 35 in which the system monitors system pressures. The system is put under pressure by use of an air blower 24. The top 30 of the feed tank 14 is airtight and the feed tank is maintained under pressure. Col. 3, lines 10 through 16.

Because the present invention is not in an airtight, sealed condition, because the term passively reveals an ambient state of the gas and sulphurous acid and because the present invention does not add an electro-mechanical pump for discharge, as disclosed in Forbush, the claims as presently stated are novel.

Furthermore, there is no teaching in Forbush that the pump is capable of injecting sulphur gases and/or sulphurous acid into an existing pressurized stream of aqueous solution to create sulphurous acid or into an existing pressurized fluid line, respectively. As a result, claims 1 and 2 are allowable over Forbush because it does not teach, suggest or disclose passive introduction means.

Section 103 Rejections

For the same reasons cited above, claims 3 through 6 are allowable over Forbush.

Applicant believes the application to now be in condition for allowance and respectfully requests the same. Should the Examiner have any questions or suggestions in furtherance of the prosecution of this application, Applicant's representative would welcome a telephonic interview at the Examiner's convenience to the telephone number indicated below.

DATED this 18th day of July, 2002.

Respectfully submitted,

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